

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 SAA-01
HA-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /124 W
-----020335 301319Z /46

R 301109Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9566
INFO USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 07167

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IR, CU
SUBJ: IRANIAN PRESS ATTACKS CASTRO

1. TEHRAN JOURNAL "FOCUS" COMMENTARY SECTION JULY 30 CARRIED
LENGTHY PIECE CASTIGATING PRESENT CUBAN LEADERSHIP FOR ITS
MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. CHARACTER-
IZING CASTRO AS "THE LEADER OF THE 'MINI'-STATE OF CUBA",
ARTICLE IS REACTION TO CUBAN LEADER'S RECENT STATEMENT ACCUSING
IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA OF EXTRACTING WEALTH FROM LDCS TO THE
BENEFIT OF WESTERN POWERS AND AGAINST THE PROGRESSIVE WORLD.

2. ARTICLE REFERS TO "CASTRO WHO HEADS A SMALL BACKWARD STATE"
AS MAKING CONTRIBUTION TO LDCS DURING PAST YEARS "MAINLY IN
THE FORM OF MERCENARIES AND GUNS WHICH HAVE FURTHER AGGRAVATED
THE ECONOMIES OF THOSE COUNTRIES, DUE TO THEIR HEAVY MILITARY
EXPENDITURES NOT INCLUDING THE LOSS OF LIFE AND AGONY CAUSED
TO THE NATIONS WHERE CASTRO'S TROOPS ARE OPERATING." "FOCUS"
THEN CONTRASTS CUBAN "EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES" WITH THOSE
OF IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA AND ASKS IF CUBA CAN STILL CALL
ITSELF A MEMBER OF WHAT CASTRO REFERS TO AS THE
"PROGRESSIVE WORLD".

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3. COMMENT: ABUSIVE PERSONAL REFERENCES TO FOREIGN
LEADERS UNUSUAL IN LOCAL MEDIA BUT CASTRO, ALONG WITH
LIBYA'S QADHAFI, HAS PARTICULARLY IRKED GOI LEADERSHIP.
BOTH ARE ACCORDED PRESS TREATMENT REFLECTING GOI POLICY.
DETERIORATING RELATIONS WITH CUBA CAME TO HEAD WITH
FORMAL BREAK IN APRIL 1976 FOLLOWING CASTRO'S RECEPTION
OF TUDEH PARTY DELEGATION. THE SHAH BELIEVED SUCH ACTION

UNACCEPTABLE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL IRANIAN AFFAIRS--
A FOREIGN CHIEF OF STATE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE ILLEGAL COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRAN. THE GOI HAS TENDED
TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE TOLERANT OF INTER-PARTY COMMUNIST
GET TOGETHERS IN CONTRAST TO WHAT IT DEEMS OFFICIAL
RECOGNITION BY FOREIGN LEADERS.
NAAS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN07167
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-0741
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978075/aaaaaduo.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d8daf071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1976623
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIAN PRESS ATTACKS CASTRO
TAGS: PEPR, IR, CU, (CASTRO, FIDEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d8daf071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014